

WESSEX Low-Cost 600RES LEAGUE 2012

Scores after the 1st round at Wincanton Falcons on Sunday 27 May 2012

A record entry of 18 pilots and sunny but breezy weather provided the recipe for an enjoyable action-packed day. This round had been postponed from the previous day when the weather had been totally unflyable. Six members of the host club entered the competition. Due to the previous bad weather this event was run jointly with the Wessex Tomboy series which was completed by midday. After some club model flying the main event got underway with 17 entrants, James having magnanimously forfeited his place and volunteered to help with the scoring along with Kate, George and Nancy.

With such a large entry this was always going to be a logistical challenge, and the event was run over five rounds to the now familiar matrix format with each pilot having one flight in each round. This allows competitors to know the order of flying in advance, giving adequate time to plan model preparation and the charging of batteries. Using the 2200 mah NiMH battery, it is possible to re-charge between flights by charging straight after landing, thus requiring only one battery all day.

After the usual pilots' briefing the competition got under way. The wind was variable throughout the afternoon but this did not cause a major problem as most pilots managed to land their models on the mown grass, as opposed to the out-of-bounds long grass. There is a growing variety of models, with the Swift and Apollo variants remaining the most popular. Wing spans ranging from 1.8m to 2.3m are the most consistently successful.

All the pilots managed at least two wins throughout the day. With the prospect of some buoyant air it was surprising that only one slot, the very last one, needed to run the full 15 minutes maximum. The three pilots were Jeff Fellows, Rick Churchill and Phil Mitchell who of course shared the points for that round. Very few planes were damaged although a heavy landing dislodged the motor mount on Simon Oylott's model and a very competitive Geoff Collins flew the wrong model in the fly-off and his Apollo suffered more serious damage.

Three pilots scored a very respectable 13 wins each and it was in this fly-off that Geoff flew the wrong model and ended up in fourth place. Peter Kessell thought he had crashed his model and had given up only to discover that it was Geoff's model in pieces on the ground and that his Apollo was happily circling away downwind (perhaps they fly better without pilot intervention!). Peter recovered enough to claim third place, with Ian Pratt scoring a comfortable, well deserved, second place as he sensibly flew his own model throughout the fly-off! Congratulations go to the overall winner with a superb 14 victories, Glenn Woodford, who was only beaten twice throughout the day - by Geoff Collins and Rick Churchill.

Our thanks go to the Wincanton Falcons for the use of their excellent flying field. The competition was run after the Wessex Tomboy event and alongside club members who were sport flying their own models, and with consideration being shown all around this worked well. Thanks go to the timekeepers, Kate Mignano, George Barnard, James and Nancy, for helping to run the event so smoothly. Pilots taking part in this series are also invited to join in with the monthly postal event, see the website for full details.

After a very successful first round we look forward to round 2 on Sunday 17 June at the Salisbury MFC site at Flamstone Farm. Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information. The Wincanton Falcons results are as follows:

1st Glenn Woodford 14 wins; 2nd Ian Pratt 13 wins; 3rd Peter Kessell 13 wins
 4th Geoff Collins 13 wins; 5th Ian Sapsed 11 wins; =6th Rick Farrer, Jeff Fellows 10 wins;
 =8th Tom Airey, Rick Churchill, Chris Hague 8 wins;
 =11th Simon Oylott, Steve Howe 6 wins; =13th Phil Mitchell, Gordon Mignano 4 wins;
 15th Phil Anning 3 wins; 16th Robin Caswell 3 wins; 17th Malcolm McKendrick 2 wins;
 18th James Parry DNS.

Low-cost 600RES		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Glenn Woodford		10					10
2	Ian Pratt		9					9
3	Peter Kessell		8					8
4	Geoff Collins		7					7
5	Ian Sapsed		6					6
= 6	Rick Farrer		4.5					4.5
= 6	Jeff Fellows		4.5					4.5
= 8	Tom Airey		2.3					2.3
= 8	Rick Churchill		2.3					2.3
= 8	Chris Hague		2.3					2.3
= 11	Simon Oylott		2					2
= 11	Steve Howe		2					2
= 13	Phil Mitchell		2					2
= 13	Gordon Mignano		2					2
15	Phil Anning		2					2
16	Robin Caswell		2					2
17	Malcolm McKendrick		2					2
18	James Parry		1					1

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.

Photographs courtesy of Rick Churchill.



The brains behind the Wessex Aeromodellers League! What was the clue for 17 down?



600RES launch

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Chris Hague